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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 74

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

YAZON notebook

## BREAKING NEWS

### OVER 250 INSURGENTS KILLED IN NAJAF

AN ALLIANCE OF IRAQI AND U.S. TROOPS KILLED 250 TO 300 INSURGENT GUNMEN IN NAJAF, A SHIITE HOLY CITY LOCATED ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTH OF THE IRAQI CAPITAL OF BAGHDAD, ACCORDING TO CNN.

## LIFE & STYLE

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN ENTERTAINMENT?

WHITNEY HOUSTON IS DATING A YOUNGER MAN? WHAT'S GOING ON WITH JAMES BROWN'S ESTATE? FIND OUT THE LATEST IN ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN LIFE & STYLE. **PAGE 8**



MON, 1/29:  
MOSTLY SUNNY  
HIGH: 33, LOW: 24

TUES, 1/30:  
PARTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH: 40, LOW: 24

# Student Plans to Sue After Recent Arrest

BY TRAVER RIGGINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The Hyattsville City Police Department (HCPD) issued a media release on Jan. 22 in response to the arrests of five Howard students at the University Towers Center (UTC) on Jan. 21.

The release states that police were deployed to the scene when a call was put in to disband a large fight on the first floor and a disorderly party on the 16th floor.

"Upon arrival, officers encountered more than 100 individuals congregating in the first floor public areas of the building; officers also saw numerous empty and open alcohol containers in these areas," according to the release.

Attendees were ordered to clear the public areas with non-residents leaving the premises and residents returning to their rooms.

"Some of these persons refused to comply with lawful police direction, and became aggressive towards officers who were attempting to clear the area," the release said.

Seniors political science major Chad Williams-Bey, accounting major Stanley Johnson, finance major Keith Barclay, finance major Isha McCauley and history major Dale Cooper were all arrested.

Williams-Bey was the only student to be fully charged.

"Williams-Bey was resisting our efforts in arresting him by not placing his hand behind his back when told to do so and fighting officers while trying to place him under arrest," according to Williams-Bey's police report.

The report further stated, "As this event was going on, people from the tower apartments were looking down and people driving stopped their cars to see what was going on."

Jasmia Fowler, a freshman speech pathology major, said, "I believe that they were just overreacting. There is definitely a better way to go about handling that situation," she said. "It seemed like they [the officers] were anxious for something like this to happen for them to [use] that much force."

Greg Phillips, HCPD public information officer, said that the department understands students' concerns with the arrests and that they are still gathering information on the incident.

Tyria Stona was one of the people watching the incident take place from inside. After an informative phone call from a friend, Stona witnessed the aftermath of Williams-Bey's arrest. She said that the officers, not the students, were acting aggressively.

"I saw three cops beating him up while he was handcuffed on the floor. That's

when I called the cops," Stona said.

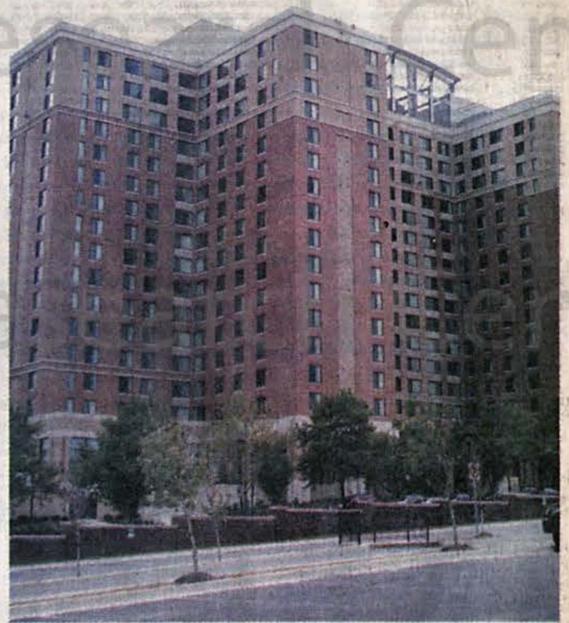
An HCPD officer visited Stona's apartment on Saturday and allowed her to complete a statement of what she witnessed that night.

Stona said that the officer confirmed that it is a violation for an officer to use a taser on someone who is handcuffed and grounded. The officer is collecting information to determine whether there were violations on the night of the arrests.

The incident remains under investigation, but steps are being taken to avoid similar situations.

"We have spoken with campus police and plan to have [a] meeting some point down the road," Phillips said.

The Hilltop is awaiting further comments from the department. Williams-Bey is proceeding to file a law suit and select legal representation.



Hyattsville, Md. police are investigating the arrest of five HU students after accusations of inappropriate force.

## Cousin Jeff Postpones Howard Visit At Last Minute

BY EBONI FARMER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Students looking forward to Jeff Johnson's visit to Howard this past Saturday were disappointed as the last stop on his tour for the launch of his Web site, My Nation Online, was postponed.

The launch, which was supposed to be held Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and feature an address from Johnson, was postponed for unknown reasons.

Carl Miller, a graduate student at Howard's School of Social Work, was working alongside Jeff Johnson's people to plan the event. He and a team of his fellow graduate students were supposed to make a presentation on HIV/AIDS during the event.

"We had hooked up with Jeff Johnson's people through them hearing about our mission to get college students to abstain for a semester," Miller said.

"They want to get student leaders from college campuses together so that there is unity so that missions can be accomplished," he added.

Miller said that he is looking forward to the event being rescheduled so that "A Semester of Abstinence and Advocacy" can be promoted. Johnson's manager said that the appearance would be rescheduled, but said it could be up to three weeks until the date is set.



Photo courtesy of www.allhiphop.com

Howard's portion of Jeff Johnson's "My Nation Online" promotional tour, set for Saturday was postponed.

Andrea Carr, a junior political science major, read in the Friday edition of *The Hilltop* that Johnson would be here on Saturday.

"I was kind of disappointed that it didn't go down," Carr said. "Because he is able to reach out and college students who actually feel like they can relate to him and understand the issues he's concerned with."

Carr woke up at 10 a.m. on Saturday for the launch when she was informed by a telephone call from a friend that it was cancelled.

"It seems a little unprofessional that just Friday there was promotion for it and then the next day it was canceled," Carr said.

The launch began at Clark Atlanta University on Jan. 25 and went on to Ohio State University the next day.

In an earlier interview with *The Hilltop*, Johnson said, "Doing this at Howard is so important. Howard has in so many ways been this environment of where young people who have changed America have come from. And the question is,

will it continue to be?"

Sophomore economics major Jason Hudson said, "I was going to go to the event. I would like to know why he canceled. It just doesn't make sense to go to Clark and not to Howard."

Hudson added, "Having a Web site focused on social justice issues that allows college students to get involved is huge, in my opinion. I think he could possibly lose some of his credibility with Howard students for being a no show."

Freshman computer science major Lauren Little was more understanding than other students.

"He's still someone that I respect as far as his enthusiasm and drive to get people involved in social justice is concerned, even though he was a no show. I hope he reschedules and comes to visit Howard to promote his Web site," she said.

Little continued, "To not come to Howard I'm sure he has a legitimate excuse. He is really one of the few faces that college students recognize because of his show on BET."

## Campus Elevators Prove Vertically Challenged

BY MERCIA WILLIAMS-MURRAY  
Hilltop Staff Writer

On Jan. 20, freshman print journalism major Morgan Winbush spent more than a half hour inside a stalled elevator on the Annex dormitory's west side.

The elevator, which has gained notoriety through a Facebook group that refers to the lift as "death in a box," has not yet been repaired.

Sophomore international business major Tiffany Cheatam is relieved that she does not have to worry about using the elevators because she lives on the lowest level of the dorm.

"Well, luckily for me this year I'm on the first floor, but I feel sorry for those who aren't," she said. "But I remember the headache last year, being on the fifth floor," she said.

The Annex is not the only dorm that has troubles with its most popular mode of transportation.

Charles Gibbs, Dean of Residence Life, said that he is aware of the inoperative elevator on the Annex's Westside.

"There's still one elevator working on the west side," he said.

Gibbs said that Residence Life and Physical

Facilities management are working diligently and are finding a company to fix the elevator. Some of the parts have been ordered to fix the elevator and it should be repaired within a week.

"Broken elevators in such a large dorm is problematic for students like myself who have 8:10 a.m. classes and a hectic schedule," sophomore public relations major, Candice Iloh said. Iloh is a resident of Meridian.

She said the elevator's signs have misled her in the past. Iloh pressed the up button once to get to her floor and the elevator took her down to the lobby. Iloh also said that the elevators can be haphazard and sporadic.

After testing the elevators in Meridian, *The Hilltop* determined they are working properly. All of the elevators in the Howard Plaza Towers are fully functional, after one was recently fixed.

Chris Irish, a junior marketing major, said that when the elevators were not all functioning, it would annoy him and other people waiting to meet him in the lobby.

"It would take so long to get downstairs that I would tell someone that I would be on my way," Irish said. "And it would take about ten or fifteen minutes to just get in the elevator to go downstairs."

Irish said it still takes around five minutes to get an elevator because he lives on the tenth floor of the West Tower and the elevators are busy during the weekend.

Most of the elevators in the academic buildings function properly. The same goes for the elevators in the Armour J. Blackburn Center and the Mordecai W. Johnson administration building.

Asmallsideelevatorattherear of the School of Communications has rarely worked at all for the last two school years.

Rhonda Crichlow, a sophomore advertising major, said that it would be more convenient to have multiple elevators to shorten the walking distance from classrooms to the elevators.

"The hallways are really long, so it would be more convenient to have one on each end of the building in addition to the one that's near the center," Crichlow said.

After four attempts to contact Physical Facilities Management, *The Hilltop* is still seeking comment about follow up repairs.



Dereck Smith - Senior Photo Editor

Students often complain about poorly working elevators. Plans to repair them are being put into action.

# Grad Student Calls for "Semester of Abstinence"

BY EBONI FARMER  
Hilltop Staff Writer

College students face many difficult decisions on a regular basis. For most students there may come a time when the decision must be made whether to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"Howard, we have a problem and it can't be ignored," Howard graduate student and social worker Carl Miller said. "Student leaders and the entire Howard campus need to take up the responsibility of protecting future generations from the issues that we face today."

Miller has come up with the idea for students to stay disease-free by making the decision to abstain from sexual activity for a semester.

In his efforts to make the Howard community more aware of the HIV/AIDS problem, Miller, along with the School of Social Work, has initiated the "A Semester of Abstinence and Advocacy" campaign.

Miller has already teamed up with Miss Howard Assata Barton and the Community of AIDS Activists Fighting for Equal Justice organization to carry out the plan. The group

plans to show "Out of Control: AIDS in Black America," in various dormitories in the near future.

According to Barton, the plan is still in the works. While dates and times have yet to be finalized, the group hopes to secure panelists and show the documentary in the third week of February.

On Dec. 1, 2006, World AIDS Day, the School of Social Work held a screening of the documentary. In the film there are five reasons given why HIV/AIDS is such a problem in the black community.

One of the reasons black people are at a higher risk is because they are more likely than any other race to have more than one sexual partner.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for blacks between the ages of 25 and 44.

"If we don't take a stand as leaders then nothing will change," Miller said.

Miller added, "And more young people will become infected and die all because we ignored a problem that we can do something about."

According to Barton, the aim of the program is to analyze sexual behavior and how

media dictates the way people behave in relationships. She also wants students to know their HIV/AIDS status, do research and learn more about the epidemic.

MillersaidthatwhenHIV/AIDS first made headlines in the U.S., it was thought to be a white gay male disease. Today, that belief is no longer thought to be true. In actuality, the disease has always affected blacks more than any other race. It is known that blacks account for 42 percent of nearly one million HIV/AIDS cases.

The CDC also reported that 72 percent of new infections in women are among black women.

"We have to respect and take care of ourselves because if we don't who will?" Miller said.

"The more and more HIV/AIDS affects the black community it seems like the less society seems to care," he said.

Taking the pledge of the "A Semester of Abstinence and Advocacy" campaign means that those who take part will get tested for HIV/AIDS, abstain from sexual activity and support the initiative to eradicate HIV/AIDS in the community.

"If we could get sixty stu-



Grad student Carl Miller, who is seen above (center) volunteering his time to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, is suggesting a semester of abstinence in order to curb HIV and AIDS.

dents, that would be fine. But the more the merrier," Barton said.

Barton said students may be taken aback by the concept of abstinence.

However, she believes

that once students read the contract and understand more about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the black community, more people will want to participate.

Miller, Barton and the

Community of AIDS Activists Fighting for Equal Justice organization are still working to set up different activities for participants to take part in during the semester-long commitment.

## Sutherland Program Prepares Minorities for Law School

BY CHARLOTTE YOUNG  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Preparation is the key to give students that extra edge as they prepare for the challenges that await them both in school and on the job.

As future law students make plans to go forward in their studies, the Sutherland Scholars Pre-law program is one route offered to students to help them along the way.

The program was put in place to better ensure the place of minorities in law schools.

"We know how scary and challenging that first year of law school can be. The Sutherland Scholars program helps to demystify law school by exposing students to everything they will need to be successful in that first year," Allegra Lawrence, Sutherland partner and Diversity Committee Chair, said.

Lawrence, the head of the program, noticed that many minority students who did well in college

did not do as well in law school. "I had a vision of teaching students how to succeed right out of the gate, not after a semester or two," she said. "I want them all to get straight A's immediately. We expect this program will supply these students with the necessary tools for a successful first year."

Started in the summer of 2005 at Spelman and Morehouse colleges, the program was extended to Howard the following summer in 2006.

The Sutherland program at Howard is sponsored by the Center for Preprofessional Education, College of Arts and Sciences in partnership with the Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.

"The program is mainly to prepare them for the first year of law school," Julie Andrist, the assistant coordinator and counselor for Preprofessional Education said. "It's a great opportunity for them to get to know lawyers [and] learn legal research techniques."

This program is just one of the summer pre-law programs presented at Howard University. It is offered

at no cost to students and includes four-hour classes taught by legal professionals such as the "Basic Factors for Success in Law School," "How to Prepare for Class," "How to Brief a Case," "How to Form an Effective Study Group" and an "Introduction to the Socratic Method."

"I decided to participate in the Sutherland program because I wanted to be prepared for law school," 2005 program graduate Shaunte Checon said. "Once accepted I wanted to have an idea of what was expected of me. I learned an enormous amount of information from the activities that were planned," she said.

"In addition to class, every evening there was an activity scheduled such as a guest speaker. Each speaker was a prominent lawyer, researcher, or executive willing to openly share their individual path of success. Most importantly, I developed a newfound confidence knowing that there was not one correct or incorrect direction to take when attempting to achieve your career goals," she said.

The Sutherland program also offers tests such as the LSAT and GRE at a discounted rate.

Applications for the Sutherland program must be submitted before March 12, 2007.



Photo courtesy of www.hilltop.com

## CHAPEL RECAP: REV. WEEMS TELLS STUDENTS NOT TO BE AFRAID TO FIND THEIR CALLING

BY SIMONE PRINGLE  
Copy Editor

Rev. Bernard L. Richardson stated that yesterday's chapel speaker, Rev. Renita J. Weems, is one of the great speakers of this world.

Weems preached from Jeremiah 1:4-10, which reads, "The word of the Lord came to me, saying 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.' 'Ah Sovereign Lord,' I said, 'I am only a child.' 'You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.'"

The subject of Weems' sermon was that everyone has a purpose.

"Your purpose in life is to find your purpose in life. That's the short answer," Weems said.

She spoke about when she almost drowned and her brother grabbed a broomstick and said, "Nita, reach."

She believed God was saying she was not finished yet.

Weems spoke about how there is no set age at which purpose reveals itself. She also spoke of her age and how she is still finding her purpose. Weems said that when she got out of college, she wanted a job at Merrill Lynch. Three days after she got the position, she wanted to quit. She realized that it was not her purpose.

"You don't always find your purpose through a straight path. Sometimes you have to go over here, over there and then find



Photo Credit

Rev. Renita J. Weems preached from the Old Testament scripture Jeremiah 1: 4-10 yesterday.

your purpose," Weems said. "This door will close and this window will open and then that window will close and another door will open."

Many students find themselves wondering how they will know when they find their purpose.

"Calling is that something that makes you feel alive, to the point where I don't mind being uncomfortable, I don't mind being inconvenienced," she said.

She added that much of life is preparing for one's purpose.

"Everything in life is a dress rehearsal for the real thing," she said.

Weems also spoke about how students need to take chances to find their purpose.

"You don't learn to fly standing on the ledge. You learn to fly when you jump off the edge and flap your wings," Weems said.

She also warned students that finding one's life purpose would not always be simple.

"You don't discover who you are until you go through some struggles. You have to decide if you're

going to let pain crush you or transform you," she said.

The sermon also focused on the topic that God has something for everyone to do.

"Every preacher was born to preach that one sermon, every lawyer that one trial, and every writer to write that one book," she said.

Lastly, Weems said that change is bound to come.

"Every prophet knows the period in which they are preaching. What worked for me and my generation might not work for your generation. My generation marched, but maybe marching isn't what works for this generation. Your calling is born out of culture," she said.

She also apologized for her generation's downfall.

"My generation has failed to give this generation a purpose, something to die for. We've given you things, we've given you iPods, but no purpose," Weems said.

Weems is speaking tonight at the "Faith in the Workplace" lecture series in the Blackburn Center Reading Lounge at 7 p.m.

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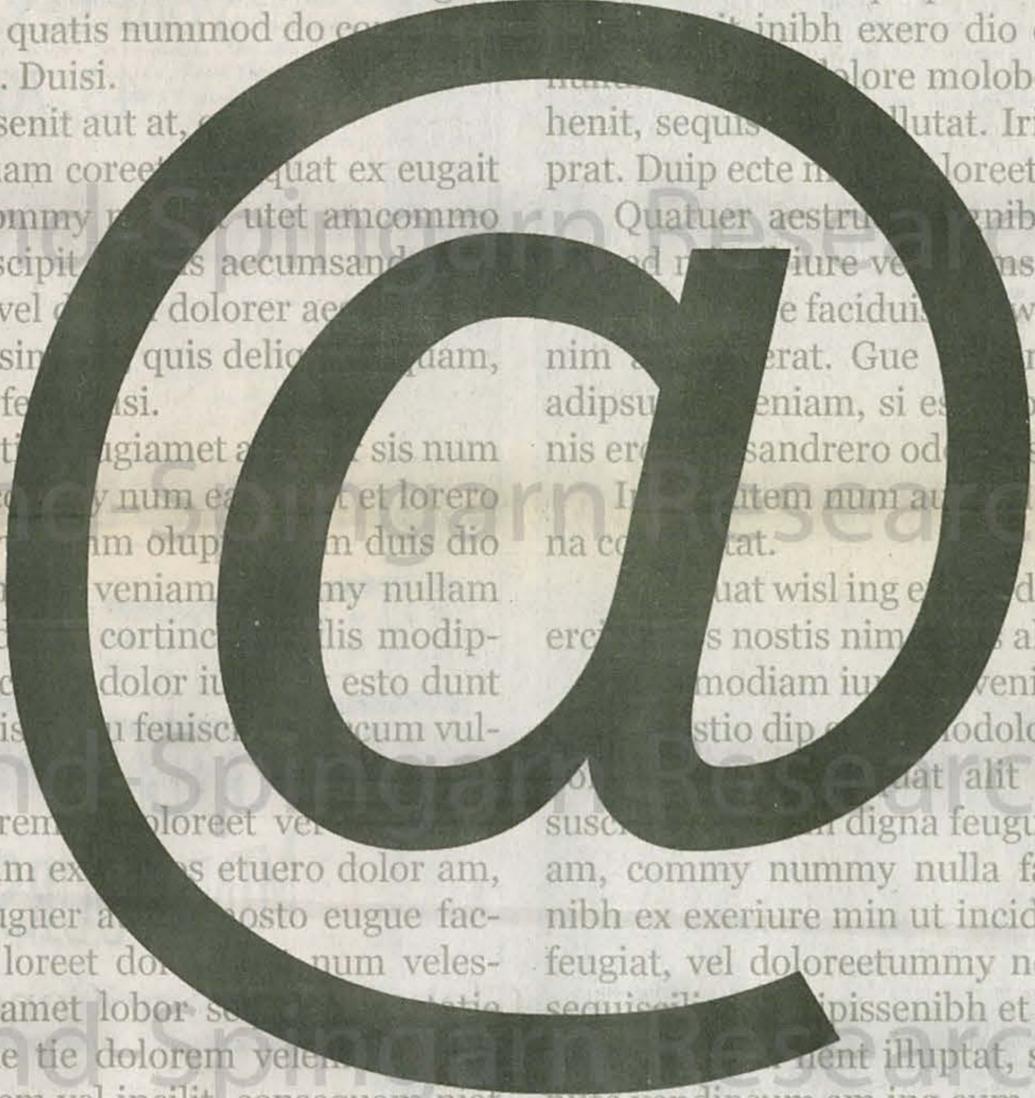
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JANUARY 29, 2007

## High Ticket Prices Discourage Movie Sales

BY CRYSTAL SCHANETEE  
Contributing Writer

The joy of experiencing dinner and a movie is steadily declining in popularity as an increase in movie ticket prices has caused many moviegoers to discontinue one of America's favorite pastimes.

The year 2005 showed the largest box office drop in two decades, grossing only \$8.99 billion. The overall box office picture for 2006 did not change dramatically from 2005, but the numbers were at least more promising. Box offices in 2006 grossed slightly higher at \$9.42 billion.

Consumers have different reasons for not flocking to the movies anymore, but the major concerns of many moviegoers deal with prices and film quality.

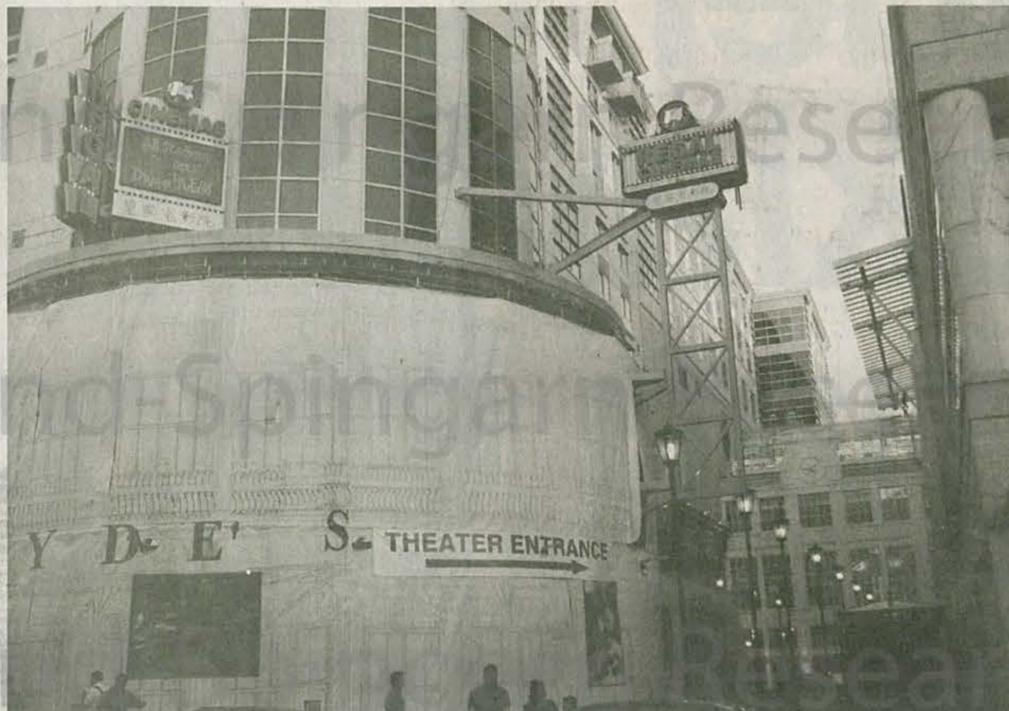
Sophomore marketing major Kelley Williams rarely goes to the movies because of the price and lack of "good" films.

"I have to wait [until] there is a movie out that I have to see. Ten dollars to see a whack film doesn't make sense," Williams said.

Average ticket prices for theaters in the District are \$10 for general admission. Matinee prices vary depending on the theater, but Regal Cinema's Gallery Place Stadium 14 offers a price of \$8 before 4 p.m., as well as a student price of \$8.50.

Courtney Thomas, a sophomore acting major, believes the movie going experience is unique.

"There's nothing like sitting there [in the movie theater] opening night with a whole bunch of people



Students say decreased attendance in theaters may be due to movie quality decrease with recent releases of multiple sequels and remakes. Rising ticket prices have also contributed to the decline of attendance.

and enjoying a movie," she said.

Sophomore musical theater major Nicholas Vaughan believes that movie going will always be a common pastime, but does not think prices are appealing to college students.

"I go to the movies about once a month. It's a good time, but way too

expensive," Vaughan said.

Vaughan and Thomas believe that part of the decline in numbers is due to the better quality of "bootleg movies."

They both commented on the fact that many bootleg movies offer a clear picture and no longer have flaws like people's heads in the way.

Bootlegs are an option many Howard students use because of the price and convenience. Others opt to attend the free moving screenings on campus.

"Free movies are the best and they are usually sneak previews, so you get to see it before it comes out in theaters," junior computer sci-

ence major Segun Awokoya said.

There is a wide range of alternatives to going to the theater. With improved home stereo systems, the Internet, movie rental stores and cable television, taking a trip to the movies has become a lot less common.

Ticket sales for 2006 were 1.4 billion, a 14.6 percent decrease compared to 2002's 1.64 billion tickets sold. Projected ticket sales for 2007 are 1.44 billion, according to CNN.com.

Williams said that movies are in recession and in order to revive them, "directors need and writers need to make better films."

Another suggestion made by both Williams and Thomas is to extend matinee hours and lower ticket prices. Thomas personally hopes films do not die because that would be the end of her future career as an actor.

The film industry, however, is still releasing movies that are grossing in the millions. The top five movies for 2006 were, "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" with a gross of \$423.27 million, "Cars" with \$244.05 million, "X-Men: The Last Stand" with \$234.36 million, "The Da Vinci Code" with \$217.54 million and "Night at the Museum" with \$204.85 million.

With films like, "Stomp the Yard," "Freedom Writers" and "The Hitcher" already topping the box office and the release of films like "Spider-Man 3," "Shrek the Third" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" approaching, 2007 is looking to be a promising year.

## Big Biz @ HU: Henry's

BY ADIA BETTS  
Contributing Writer

Established almost 40 years ago in 1968, Henry's is a southern-inspired soul food restaurant located in northwest Washington, D.C. The carry-out delicatessen offers a colorful selection of hearty foods that represents the best of what southern cuisine has to offer.

The owner, Henry Smith Jr., is a native of Bennettsville, S.C., a small town approximately two hours northeast of Columbia, S.C. Smith moved to D.C. after realizing that he could no longer work on a plantation back home.

"Me and the plantation owner just could not do it. We did not get along, so I left," he said.

Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., Smith worked several odd jobs at a drug store, a trucking company and other places. A friend of his was the first to show him the location where his restaurant currently operates. He decided to open his own restaurant using determination and patience.

Smith explained the difficulty in getting a business up and running.

"The first day that I made \$100 was a Saturday," he said. "It took me three months to make over \$100 in one day."

Eventually, making money became less of an issue as the community started to catch on. Local residents and Howard students alike frequent the small restaurant located at 1704 U St. for foods that taste home-cooked.

Claudia Harrington, a sophomore public relations major, became a regular customer of Henry's after discovering its quaint location earlier in the school year.

"Nobody's food can replace your mother's, but I put Henry's at the top of my list for soul food restaurants in D.C.," she said.

Harrington is also drawn to the warm atmosphere and easy disposition of the employees within the restaurant. Every time she visits the restaurant, she said she is, "able to have a good conversation."

Henry's is well known for its sweet potato pie, which is always in high demand around the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Other customer favorites include the pork chops, chitterlings and turkey wings. For those who choose to try something new, items such as scrapple, fat back and pig feet also grace the menu.

Sophomore Amanda Brown loves how Henry's puts her in the mind set of being at home.

"When I walked in, I immediately thought I was in the south. It smelled like someone's grandmother's house during the holidays," she said.

Henry's has the overall approval of students from the south. Brown, an Atlanta native, recalls her first time in the restaurant. "I got cornbread and sweet tea," she said. "It was perfect."

Howard students make up a significant amount of Henry's regular customer base and receive restaurant discounts as well.

In addition to great food, Henry's offers good service. Harrington said that she is always asked if she is a Howard student without her even mentioning it.

"It shows me that they care about their customers and their community," she said.

Henry's is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The restaurant also caters, delivers and has a second location in Oxon Hill, Md.



Henry's, a soul food restaurant in Northwest Washington D.C., serves up pork chops, sweet potato pie and scrapple.



As the Green House Effect raises the Earth's temperatures, environmentalists are finding more ways to adjust with the use of hybrid cars and solar heating to reverse global warming.

## Global Warming Concerns Heat Up

BY JERRY BURTON  
Contributing Writer

After decades of industrialism and corporate globalization, the U.S. is taking on a new approach—preserving the environment.

In recent years, there have been several attempts made by the federal government and corporate America to enforce environment-friendly or "green living." Green living focuses on converting the manner in which daily activities are performed so that they are not as harmful to the environment.

Though many see it as an inconvenience, there is little doubt as to why the environment needs extra concern today.

Sophomore sports medicine major Byron Lockhart said, "The weather is getting crazy, especially when I see snow falling while the sun is shining and there are few clouds in [the] sky. Even more so when it is in the 60's in Washington, D.C. during winter break."

Both the scientific community and the general public share the concern about global warming stressed by Lockhart.

In a recent article by National Geographic Magazine, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment reported that at least half of the Arctic's summer sea ice will

melt by the century's end and that the global climate will rise between three and 10 degrees during that same period. For the U.S., this means big trouble.

According to the study, the sea could flood low-lying coastal areas in Florida and Louisiana. Such a rapid melt would cause the sea level to rise 1.5 feet, which could cause the coastline to move 150 feet inland. Additionally, the massive insertion of fresh water, which is what the ice glaciers are made of, into seas of saltwater could impact the circulation of currents and affect regional climates. Finally, the loss of ice blocks during the summer months could mean extinction for the polar bear and some species of seal, since they need the cold of the ice glaciers year-round.

Susan Joy Hassol, an independent global warming analyst and the author of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment report "Impacts of a Warming Arctic," describes the importance of maintaining the ice in the Arctic region.

"The Arctic is the air conditioner for the world and we're looking at having a less efficient air conditioner," she said.

Though most are aware of the existence of global warm-

ing, especially after the success of Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," the amount of action toward solving the problem is lacking.

"People are set on the fact that someone else will figure out a way to stop global warming," said sophomore computer based information systems major Mary Shelton. "We assume that it will not affect us because it is not our problem, and that scientists will figure out a solution. We need to understand that global warming affects us and will affect our children and their children."

Many Howard students, including Lockhart and Shelton, are doing things to aid in the fight for the environment in their own way.

"I try to walk when I have the opportunity," Lockhart said. "I turn off the lights when I'm not using it or when I leave the room."

Shelton said, "I don't put trash in the street. And I don't leave the water running while I brush my teeth or rinse my face."

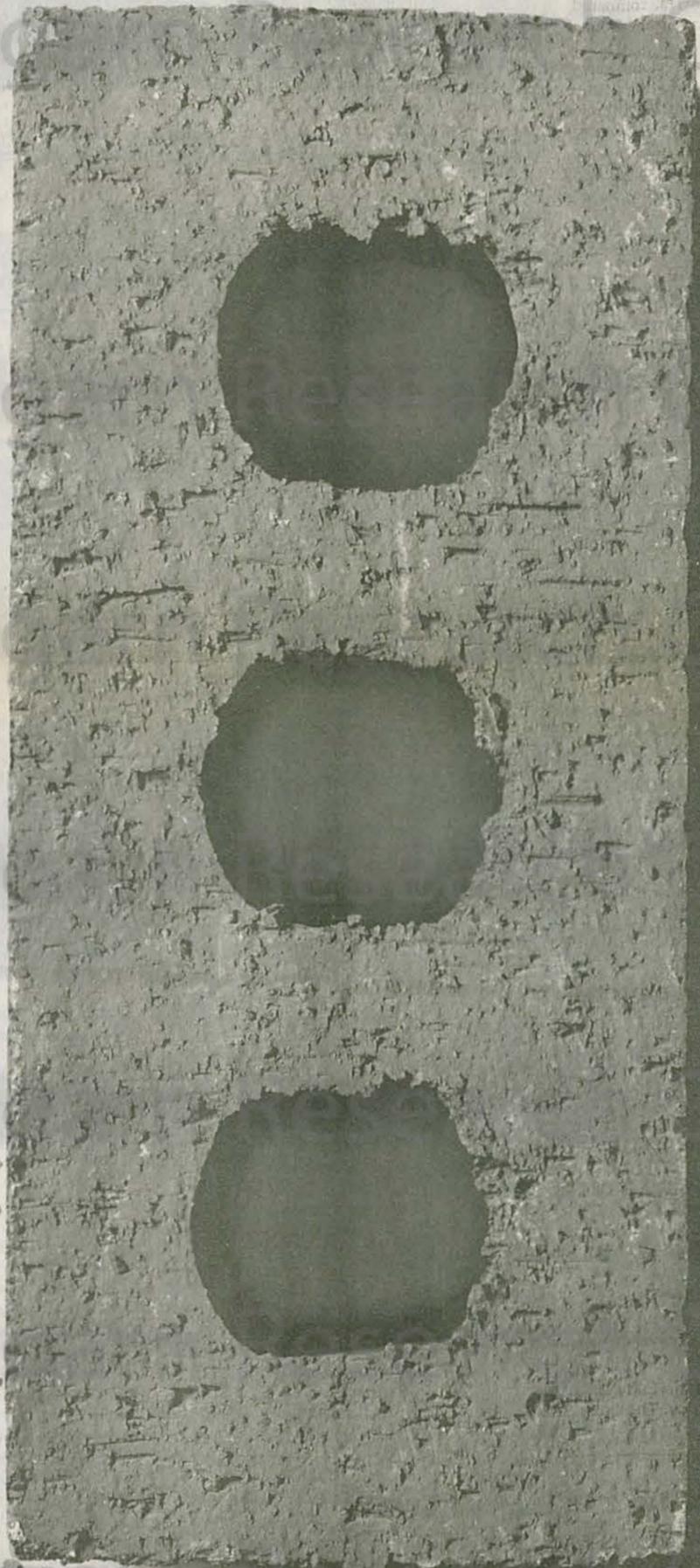
"It's not that much that has to be done. People just need to understand that if you care about the environment, these minor changes are not a big deal."

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# Coppin Deals Bison Second Straight Loss

BY ELLIOTT JONES  
Sports Editor

The Bison men's basketball team outperformed the Coppin State Eagles in nearly every statistical category, but were plagued by turnovers in a 62-59 loss at Burr Gymnasium on Saturday.

The win snapped a 15-game losing streak for Coppin State (5-15 overall, 3-5 in the MEAC) and was the Eagles' seventh win in their last eight games against Howard (6-12 overall, 3-5 in the MEAC).

"As the head coach, I have to find a way to change the culture of our team. Way too many times, we have been on the losing end of games like these," Gil Jackson, Howard's head men's basketball coach said.

Howard out-rebounded Coppin State 36-30, shot better percentages from the field and the free throw line and even had more assists. But it was the Bison's 19 turnovers, compared to the Eagles' 13, that doomed them in the end.

In the Bison's previous game against Florida A&M, the team attempted a season-high 37 three-pointers in a 65-53 loss. Howard opened the game in similar fashion with senior forward Stanley Greene connecting from behind the arc for the game's first basket.

Midway through the first half, Howard took advantage of a 5:37 Eagles scoring drought to take

the lead, spurred by sophomore Dominique Davis' alley-oop to junior Jeron Smith and a three-pointer from senior guard Will Gant.

The Bison stretched their lead to eight points after two free throws from senior forward Darryl Hudson (11 points), making the score 24-16. The eight-point advantage was the largest for either team for the game.

Coppin State worked the ball around to cut open the Bison defense, finding junior guard Mike Miller for a lay-up just before halftime, bringing the score to 32-28 as the teams entered the break.

The Eagles stormed back to regain the lead on an Antwan Harrison jump shot to make the score 44-42.

With eight minutes left in the second half, Coppin State received a boost from reserve guard West Otis, who averaged 1.1 points per game entering Saturday's contest. Otis scored all eight of his points in the game's final eight minutes, and following his go-ahead lay-up, put the Eagles up 52-50. Howard was never able to regain the lead.

After the game, Jackson pointed to inconsistent point guard play as the cause for Howard's 19 turnovers.

"We tried to play point guard by committee. Dominique (Davis) does a good job on defense. Jeron (Smith) makes a spectacular play and then turns around and does something that hurts us. And Julius (Hearn)

is [a] young kid who has to learn how to play the position at this level. The point guard play has to become more consistent," Jackson said.

Despite the loss, the Bison were able to hold pre-season all-MEAC guard Tywain McKee to 13 points on 4-of-14 shooting.

Howard was led on offense by Gant's 12 points, all on three-pointers and nine of which came during the second half. Hudson also added his third double-double of the season, finishing with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Hudson said that the team chemistry is growing with each game, but that it has to overcome a mental hurdle when it comes to winning close games.

"(Close losses are) frustrating, of course. We have to know we're going to win and play with a killer instinct. I think we have it, but we lose focus," Hudson said.

Jackson agreed, adding that "basketball is a very mental sport. We can do a lot of things physically, but the mental piece is tough."



Darryl Hudson's 11 points were not enough to carry the Bison over the Eagles Saturday.

Freshman guard Curtis White missed his tenth straight contest and sophomore guard Eugene Myatt missed his ninth in a row for the Bison due to injuries. Howard's next game is tonight at 8 p.m. against Morgan State in Burr Gymnasium, the Bison's fourth game of a seven-game home stand.

# No. 1 Lady Eagles Soar Past Howard, 71-57

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

The women's basketball team fell to the Coppin State Eagles Saturday afternoon, with a final score of 71-57.

With the loss of this game, which was played at home in Burr Gymnasium, and the lack of previous

wins, this now sets the Lady Bison as 1-17 overall and 1-7 in the Mid-Atlantic Eastern Conference.

"I do not think it is any one thing, it is just all the little dynamics that you have to bring to every game," senior forward Melloni Benson said.

"But we are looking more and more like ourselves every day."

Benson scored the team high of 18 points against the Lady Eagles Saturday night. Benson was followed by junior guards Christina Aden, who scored 12 points during the game and Shannon Carlisle, who scored 10 points. However, even with their combined efforts, it was not enough to close the point deficit and pull a win for the Lady Bison.

The ladies were able to keep the game close in the early part of the second half and at two different points in the game, Howard took the lead with one point. With 10 minutes left in the second half and four chances to take the lead, the Lady Bison only trailed by four points and gave hope for a win.

When Howard missed three of their turnovers and a lay-up, the game from that point on went to Coppin State.

"We needed our point guards to give us quality minutes,"

said Cathy Parson, head coach of the Lady Bison.

"In the first half we held our own, but we didn't get the breaks. You have to give [Coppin State] credit for being able to step up to another level," she said.

Two-time defending MEAC champion Coppin State is currently 13-6 overall and 8-0 in the conference. They have won 37 consecutive conference games, including the conference tournament, which has placed them comfortably in the number one conference spot.

Along with the difficulties of playing against such a tough competitor, Howard was also missing senior forward Courtney Smiley in the later part of the game due to foul trouble.

She was committed to the bench early, with 18 minutes left in the game, also making it harder for the Lady Bison to pull out with the win.

"Courtney is such a warrior for us," Parson said. "She is a blue collar player. To get those two quick fouls and have to sit down so quickly took her out of her natural game and hurt us in the leadership area."

The team is trying to pull together all of their talent and efforts for their next match-up. With Smiley back in the game along with the Lady Bison point guards, they will try to hustle their way into a much needed win.

Howard will try to compete for their second win of the season as they play Morgan State tonight at 6 p.m. in the Burr Gymnasium. This will be one of four remaining consecutive home games.



Melloni Benson led the Lady Bison with 18 points in their loss to Coppin State Saturday. The Lady Bison have a 1-17 overall record.

## SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

### SCORES

Men's Track & Field  
@ Penn State National Invitational

60 Meter Hurdles  
**Daniel Kinney**  
4th Place - 7.99

4x400 Meter Relay  
**Kimery Williams, Dante Buckner, Daniel Kinney, Christopher George**  
3rd Place - 3:17.85

Women's Track & Field  
@ Penn State National Invitational

400 Meter Dash  
**Lauren McNary**  
4th Place - 54.70

4x400 Meter Relay  
**Landria Buckley, Alyssa Johnson, Lauren McNary, Violet King**  
8th Place - 3:52.02

### Women's Basketball

**Coppin State 71**  
**Howard 57**

### Men's Basketball

**Coppin State 62**  
**Howard 59**

### TODAY'S GAMES

Women's Basketball vs. Morgan State  
@ Burr Gymnasium  
6 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Morgan State  
@ Burr Gymnasium  
8 p.m.

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On Jan. 29, 1936, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson were the first players to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

# Swim Team Performs Well in Meet, Looks Forward to HBCU Championship

BY ERICA ROBINSON  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Winning first in all their relay events at their last meet, the Bison swimming team is one step closer to success in the forthcoming HBCU Championship.

The meet was Saturday in the Burr Gymnasium as they faced St. Francis from Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.

The women placed 1st in the 200 medley and 1000 freestyle; 1st and 2nd in the 200 freestyle; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the 50 freestyle; 1st and 2nd in the individual medley; 1st in the 100 but-

terfly; 1st and 2nd in the 100 freestyle; 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the 500 freestyle; 1st and 2nd in the 100 breaststroke; and 1st in the freestyle relay.

The men also placed 1st in their relays; won 3rd in the 1000 freestyle; 1st in the 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 100 Butterfly and 100 back stroke; and 1st and 3rd in the 500 freestyle; and 1st, 5th and 6th in the 100 breaststroke. They also ranked 2nd in the 50 freestyle.

Junior captain Throne Dash was pleased with the team's performance.

"Our swimmers were fighting for their final places,"

"I want more Howard students to support us."

- Nzshingha Murphy, '08

he said. "With swimming, you have individual and relay events and our relays were excellent."

Although the meet had a bumpy start because the other team was late, Howard continued to push forward through the races.

The team functioned as a unit, which was a key factor in their many achievements.

"The cohesiveness is really good," Dash said. "We are like family. Most of our weekends are spent together."

Sophomore captain Nzshingha Murphy said, "We were more together on one page."

They swam their hardest throughout the meet. The team is also looking forward to the upcoming meet on Saturday,

Feb. 3 which is the HBCU Championships.

They will be competing against Florida A&M and North Carolina A&T.

"It will be nice to see more of our color in the pool," Murphy said.

Last year, the team was unable to participate in the event, so the Bison swim team is excited for this season's opportunity.

With the championship on the way, the team is training rigorously in preparation for the big event by running, doing land training as well as fitness training such as push ups and crunches.

"The team has a lot of potential to do better than last year," Murphy said.

The meet is scheduled to take place in the Prince George's County Learning and Athletic Complex in Landover, Md.

"My personal goals are to swim my fastest and I hope to see improvement from my last races," Dash said.

To continue their success, the team needs support from fellow Bison.

"I hope we put more out there so we can have a large turnout. I want more Howard students to support us," Murphy said.



## Entertainment Report Card



### Ciara's CD Shows 'Evolution'

BY MONICA HARRIS  
Hilltop Staff Writer

Ciara's sophomore album, "The Evolution," is already making waves on radio stations and club playlists nationwide. With the success of her first album, coupled with the highly acclaimed artists featured on the new one, including Lil Jon and 50 Cent, this album is destined to please her fans and draw in new ones.

Ciara's two released singles have run up the Billboard charts with "Get Up," featuring Chamillionaire, peaking at no. 3 on the Hot R&B/ Hip Hop Chart and "Promise" peaking at no. 1. "The Evolution" hit music stores worldwide on Dec. 5, 2006 and sold 335,000 in the first week. It broke the half million mark by the month's end.

Highly esteemed critics, as well as everyday critics, have accused Ciara of duplicating the sounds and dance moves of R&B legends Aaliyah and Janet Jackson. Vibe's February cover story features none other than Ciara herself confronting these very issues among others. Vibe compares her "Get Up" video with Janet's 1986 "The Pleasure Principle" and 1989 "Rhythm Nation," saying that the dance moves look "a lot alike."

In the interview with Vibe, Ciara admitted to being a big fan of

Ms. Janet, but stated, "If anything, I'd love to have the same amount of success. But I don't wanna be like her- I wanna be my own."

One of her biggest fans on Howard's campus, senior print journalism major Vincent Sherry, believes that regardless of what Janet's track record may be, Ciara is blowing her out of the water.

"She made the album Janet tried to make, a somewhat retro dance album with contemporary street flavor," Sherry said.

"The Evolution" does have a nostalgic flair that screams 1980's ballad, which is most likely where most of the Janet comparisons come from.

On the other hand, some would argue that this is just an example of Ciara's growth. Her first album was stuffed with party music with "1-2 Step" and "Goodies," but her second album attempts to show Ciara as the adult that she has come to be.

"I love Ciara's new album and I feel that she's come a long way since her first album. The songs talk about things we all go through: love, going out

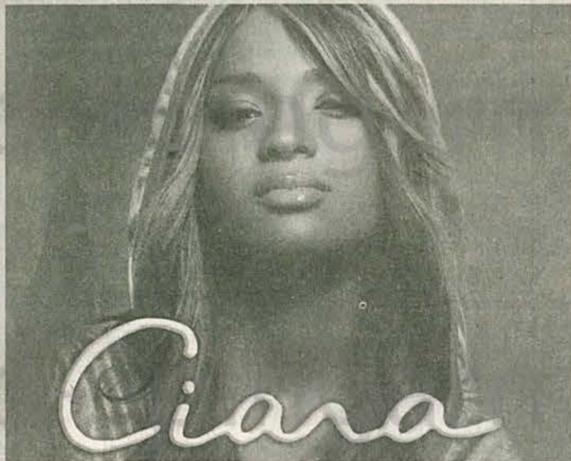


Photo courtesy of

Ciara's new album, "The Evolution," includes singles "Get Up" with Chamillionaire and "Promise."

having a good time with your girls, and maturing into a young woman," sophomore broadcast journalism major Kristen Price-Pigford said.

"Make It Last Forever," the tenth track on her new album, samples the production of 1988's "It Takes Two" by one hit wonder Rob Base and DJ E-Z. It is an up-tempo love song in which Ciara raps a few verses toward the end.

The title of the sixth song, "Can't Leave Him Alone" featuring 50 Cent, may lead speculators to believe that Ciara is speaking of her highly publicized break-up with rapper Bow Wow. However, she refers to the love that she is infatuated with as "the dope boy," and we all

know that Mr. Woof Woof is definitely not that.

Ciara bears her true thoughts about feeling awkward in an industry that praises high society. In "I'm Just Me" she sings "I'm just ghetto, I'm just me" over a soft piano melody with a somber sound. Here she attempts to relate to her fans by exposing herself as "ghetto," not the flawless diva that everyone sees at first glance.

The futuristic, electronic sound of "Get In, Fit In" may initially draw the listener in. However, the lyrics sound monotone and almost robotic, which may become too repetitive and a little annoying depending on one's personal taste.

Grade: B+

### Smokin' Aces Deals a Royal Flush

BY JANA HOMES  
Managing Editor

Despite some critics' opinion that "Smokin' Aces" should be flushed, there are some who would go out on a limb and call it a royal flush.

Directed by Joe Carnahan, who also directed "Narc" (2002), "Smokin' Aces" is the story of a competition between various hitmen to get to the \$1 million bounty on the head of Las Vegas magi-

cian Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven). The price upon his head has been placed there in an effort to keep him from rolling over on a local crime syndicate and making a deal with the FBI.

Aces delivers exactly what one would expect from a film whose tagline is "May the best hitman win." All the gratuitous violence, gun shoots, bullet wounds, crosses and double-crosses that one would expect from a film about what happens

when all the best in the hit man game try their hands at the same target.

Some seem to be offended by the excessive gore and graphic demises, but what can you really expect when the trailers and promotions more than imply that anyone standing in the line of fire will be fired upon? The few moments where "Aces" attempts to be deeper read as artificial and melodramatic. It's clear that what this movie sets out to do and does best is hit 'em hard, hit 'em fast, and hit 'em with a whole lotta firepower.

In addition to a well-stocked cast of hand guns, rifles and slightly random weapons, the film features a full house of a cast. Ray Liota and Ryan Reynolds deliver solid performances as the dedicated FBI agents who are racing the clock and the assassins to protect their witness. Ben Affleck and his band of followers are hired by lawyers to retrieve Israel for jumping bail. A trio of white power believing, tattoo sporting red-neck brothers with rather unconventional methods and weapons of choice, also join the fray for the coveted contract. The already colorful cast is joined by a sadistic and ruthless killer not above self-mutilation to avoid punishment and a mask-making master of disguise.

Rounding out the already full deck is the

highly sought after duo of female hit women, played by Taraji Henson (most often recognized as "that one girl from 'Baby Boy'") and new-comer to the silver screen singer Alicia Keys. Both deliver performances of an acceptable caliber, but some have criticized their caricatures of the urban woman, replete with a fedora-sporting handler and all the trite vernacular written by those attempting to mimic the correct voice.

Another caricature thrown in is Israel himself, who exudes that smarmy lounge act quality as the Los Vegas headliner turned mob head. His silky robes, slightly retro, gold rimmed shades and steadily rotating, scantily clad harem of female playthings are the archetype image of a man living the high life on the Vegas strip. Straying from the image, however, is Israel's slightly gangster right-hand man, portrayed by Common, who also plays his cards just right in the role.

But what would a hit man showdown be without a cast of unfortunately fated extras who are killed in an array of unfortunate fashions? Anyone expecting a low body count in this film might as well fold now and walk away from the table. "Aces" deals exactly what one should expect from a shoot 'em up flick like this.

Grade: B+



Photo courtesy of www.cinemablend.com

The latest action flick, "Smokin' Aces," features R&B singer Alicia Keys and rapper Common.



### Whitney Gets Her Groove Back

Whitney Houston, 43, is reportedly dating Ray J. The R&B legend was seen with the 26-year-old rapper/actor leaving Maestro in Beverly Hills, Calif. This comes after her divorce from Bobby Brown in September of last year. Houston filed for divorce after 14 years of marriage and checked into rehab shortly after.

Her sources haven't confirmed any relationship between her and pop singer



Brandy's younger brother, but the pictures suggest they do have some sort of a relationship.

### Tyra Faces Public About Her Weight



Over the past year fans of Tyra Banks, 33, have noticed her gradual weight gain. Since she left modeling for good in 2005, tabloids have constantly documented her steady weight gain. Banks, who is 5'10", fessed up to weighing a solid 161 lbs and is not ashamed.

She feels more relatable to fans and hopes to show that beauty can come in any size. Banks' talk show is entering its second season and the latest edition of "America's Next Top Model" had the highest ratings in the show's history.

### B.B. King Released From Hospital

Blues legend B.B. King, 81, was released from University of Texas Hospital on Saturday after recovering from a severe fever. King was scheduled for a concert that night, but two doctors who were regulars at the club advised him to cancel.

After spending the day on his tour bus, King was admitted to the local hospital and diagnosed with a low-grade fever. His reps say he's now feeling great and is back to his old self. King's tour will continue until the summer.



### Kanye West Teams Up With Cold Play



Kanye's upcoming album "Graduation," is expected to be his most eclectic project yet.

His first single, "Homecoming," features Chris Martin, the lead singer of Cold Play. Martin, who is married to actress Gwyneth Paltrow, was also featured on Jay-Z's newest album.

West's CD is scheduled to be released later this year.

### New Face Desired for Cover Girl

Queen Latifah's Cover Girl Queen Line needs a new face to represent its line. She is holding an open call today in New York for the line's next ad campaign. It is open to women of all ethnic backgrounds between the ages 18 to 48. Auditions are in New York City at the B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, located at 237 W. 42nd Street, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Compiled by Danielle Kwateng, Life & Style Editor

Photos courtesy of www.ushispano.com (Whitney Houston), www.pub.tv2.no (Tyra Banks), www.jazzphone.ch (B.B. King), www.project1090.com (Chris Martin), www.artfiles.art.com (Queen Latifah).

# EDITORIALS & Perspectives

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## Vote "Yes" On Corporal Punishment

There is currently a bill in the California state legislature that would address the topic of corporal punishment for children under the age of three.

In other words, the bill seeks to make it illegal to use physical means to punish children.

First of all, we at *The Hilltop* believe that sometimes it is necessary to spank a child in order for them to learn that there are consequences for their actions.

A quick smack delivers a stronger message than a lecture. A lecture to a young child does not serve as an effective deterrent.

We have all seen kids acting up in public or on TV doing

things that we would never think of. Blatant disrespect is displayed all over super Nanny, 911 and "Super Nanny," in which the parents

**Our View:**  
*We believe that the government should not regulate how parents choose to raise their own children and how they discipline them.*

are afraid to use any physical means to discipline their children.

Why would you pass a bill that would make this behavior the norm and declare any other manner of child rearing

illegal? Which brings up the next point that should say in how parents chose to discipline their own children?

Parents should be allowed to raise their children however they see fit as long as it does not cross the line into child abuse.

We fear that legislation like this could potentially split up families.

A good parent could be sent to jail for spanking a child, which would then force the child into foster care. That fate is worse for the child than a parent who believes in corporal punishment.

## Perspective: Response to Genarlow Wilson Column

I was truly disgusted with the article that I read on Thursday from Sports Editor Caryn Grant.

At first I thought she was going to talk about the racism and injustice that still plague black America in her article on Genarlow Wilson, but obviously I was wrong.

What Grant failed to say was that the state of Georgia has backward laws. The reason Wilson was prosecuted because he was 17 and the girl was 15 at the time of the sexual encounter and she was under the age of consent.

The outrageous law Georgia has is that it is a, "misdemeanor for teenagers less than three years apart to have sexual intercourse, but a felony for the same kids to have oral sex" and that law makes no sense any way you look at it.

That law has since been changed, but it does not help any retroactive cases not even Wilson's case. Keep in mind that the law is truly in place to fight pedophiles and molesters, something Wilson is not.

The situation happened in a hotel room and it was a party with Wilson, some of his friends and a few females.

The incident was being recorded on video and the girl initiated the sexual acts on Wilson and his friend and another girl had intercourse with two of Wilson's friends. The next day at the hotel, one of the females falsely claimed she had been raped.

After the incident the boys were taken to court. All of Wilson's friends took plea deals, but not Wilson. He did not take a deal because he would have to register as a sex offender.

If one is a sex offender, they can not live in a house or in an area where minors reside. So he would have to move out of his house.

Now I do not understand why Grant came off as if Wilson deserved his punishment because nowhere in your article do you [sympathize] with the unequal treatment of Wilson.

It seems that you did not

read the entire article before commenting. Because if you did completely read the article, you would have read he was a good kid who was being looked at by Ivy League schools.

You would have also read when his case went to the Supreme Court it was voted 4-3. Four of the judges that voted against him were white and the three that voted for him were black.

You would have also read a trial taken place at the same time as Mr. Wilson's trial was a case of a white female teacher who was found guilty of having a sexual relationship with a student and she only did 90 days in jail.

Now is that racism, unequal treatment, and injustice or is it just a person who was doing something Grant feels they should not have been doing? I don't think a teenager should be sentenced to prison for being sexually active.

**-Raymond Taylor  
Philly, Pa.**

**Editor's Note:**

In my Jan. 25 column titled "A Recurring Theme," I mentioned the story of Genarlow Wilson. I found the story in "Outrageous Injustice," an article written by Wright Thompson for ESPN. As Mr. Taylor mentioned, my column did not include all of the details of Wilson's case. For that, I apologize.

However, my column was not meant to be a republication of Wright's article and Wilson's story.

Contrarily, it was a reminder that the justice sys-

tem is flawed (in Georgia and other states.) My point was that although this is a problem in and of itself, if young men such as Wilson and Marcus Dixon were never in the situations they were in, there would not have been room for the law to be used against them.

This is in no way putting the blame on these two or lessening the seriousness of the problems with our justice system. It is simply to say that this is a sad scenario that we see all too often - especially when it comes to our young athletes. Their promis-

ing futures are halted in the split second of an unnecessary action.

If I was misunderstood in my column, I hope that this has cleared the air.

I pray for Wilson and his family as they struggle to get this decision overturned and I suggest that everyone read the article on ESPN.com for the full details of this story.

**Caryn can be reached at caryngrant86@hotmail.com.**

## Daily Sudoku

**Directions:** Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

			8	1	2	4	6	
4	6				1			
			4	6	9		8	
3			1		6	9		
	9		3	5		1		
	8	1			4			7
8		9	5	2				
		6				2	3	
1	2	3	4		7			

Do you want to write for THE HILLTOP?

Come to our budget meeting

**Monday @ 7 p.m.**

## THE HILLTOP

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Now in its 83rd year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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**TO THOSE TRYNA BE DOWN, STEP UP.**

**-TLN**